

Hymns and Songs - 17th December, 2023

Long ago, prophets knew

Christ would come, born a Jew,
Come to make all things new,
Bear his people's burden,
Freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
Born himself of woman,
God divinely human:

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

Mary, hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid,
Till the time expected,
Nurtured and protected:

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

Journey ends: where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes,
Jesus comes,
We will make him welcome.

Psalm 126

When the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion:
then were we like unto them that dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter: and our
tongue with joy.

Then said they among the heathen: The Lord hath
done great things for us already: whereof we rejoice.

Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already,
whereof we rejoice.

Turn our captivity O Lord as the rivers in the south.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

He that now goeth on his way weeping,
and beareth forth good seed shall doubtless come
again with joy and bring his sheaves with him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and
to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever
shall be, world without end. Amen.

Hark , my soul, it is the Lord;

'tis thy Saviour, hear his word;
Jesus speaks, and speaks to thee,
"Say, poor sinner, lov'st thou me?"

"I delivered thee when bound,
And, when wounded, healed thy wound;
Sought thee wandering, set thee right,
Turned thy darkness into light."

"Can a woman's tender care
Cease towards the child she bare?
Yes, she may forgetful be,
Yet will I remember thee."

"Mine is an unchanging love,
Higher than the heights above,
Deeper than the depths beneath,
Free and faithful, strong as death."

"Thou shalt see my glory soon,
When the work of grace is done;
Partner of my throne shalt be:
Say, poor sinner, lov'st thou me?"

Lord, it is my chief complaint
That my love is weak and faint;
Yet I love thee, and adore;
O for grace to love thee more!

The Light of Christ

has come into the world
The light of Christ
has come into the world.

All men must be born again
to see the kingdom of God;
the water and the Spirit
bring new life in God's love.

The light of Christ
has come into the world

*The light of Christ
has come into the world.*

God gave up His only Son
out of love for the world
so that all men who believe in Him
will live for ever.

*The light of Christ
has come into the world
The light of Christ
has come into the world.*

The light of God has come to us
so that we might have salvation;
from the darkness of our sins we walk
into glory with Christ Jesus.

*The light of Christ
has come into the world
The light of Christ
has come into the world.*

Donald Fishel (c) 1974

Great is the darkness that covers the earth,
Oppression, injustice and pain.
Nations are slipping in hopeless despair,
Though many have come in Your name.
Watching while sanity dies,
Touched by the madness and lies.

*Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
Pour out Your Spirit we pray.
Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
Pour out Your Spirit on us today.*

May now Your church rise with power and love,
This glorious gospel proclaim,
In every nation salvation will come
To those who believe in Your name.
Help us bring light to this world
That we might speed Your return.

Great celebrations on that final day
When out of the heavens You come
Darkness will vanish, all sorrow will end,
And rulers will bow at Your throne.
Our great commission complete,
Then face to face we shall meet.

Gerald Coates & Noel Richards © 1992

Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
the God whom you have longed to know
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.

Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey on,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the sons of earth be blest.

Hills of the North, rejoice,
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice
him who made earth and skies:
he comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.